NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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MAY 6, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO MEXICAN NATIONALS PLEAD GUILTY
TO TRANSPORTING ILLEGAL ALIENS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Mexican nationals pleaded guilty in federal court today to transporting 18 illegal aliens within the United States.

Francisco Figueroa-Salas, 35, and **Manuel Figueroa-Salas**, 27, both Mexican nationals, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning.

By pleading guilty, **Francisco Figueroa-Salas** and **Manuel Figueroa-Salas** admitted that they each transported illegal aliens within the United States on April 4, 2005, in Jackson County, Mo. **Francisco Figueroa-Salas** also admitted that he was found unlawfully inside the United States on April 4, 2005, in Jackson County.

Specifically, **Francisco Figueroa-Salas** admitted that he transported illegal aliens in a van across the United States and Mexico border where he then met **Manuel Figueroa-Salas**.

At the time the co-defendants met, **Manuel Figueroa-Salas** admitted that he had previously picked additional illegal aliens who had crossed the border on foot near Altar, Senora, Mexico.

The co-defendants then transported an entire group of 18 illegal aliens to Denver, Colo., and then to Kansas City.

The co-defendants were originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on April 19, 2005, in Kansas City.

Under federal statutes, the co-defendants may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to five years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to $250,000.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sheryle L. Jeans. It was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
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